

Town of Suffield



Board of Fire Commissioners **Minutes**

Minutes of the Fire Commission Meeting – November 12, 2014

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the main firehouse. Present: P. Barrett, J. Mahoney, R. Gemme, P. Christian, G. Bland and Chief Flynn.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report

Bland moved, Mahoney seconded to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2014 special meeting. The motion passed with Barrett, Mahoney, Bland and Gemme voting yes and Christian voting against. Commissioner Mahoney asked Commissioner Christian to state what specifically he did not agree with in the minutes. Commissioner Christian declined to respond.

Financial Report

The Commission reviewed the current financial report.

Mahoney moved, Gemme seconded to accept the financial reports as presented. The motion passed with Barrett, Mahoney, Bland and Gemme voting yes and Christian abstaining. Commissioner Christian declined any comment as to why he was abstaining.

Correspondence

Chief Flynn shared with the Commissioners an article entitled, "States Struggle to Contain Firefighting Costs".

Public Comment

None

Calls & Activities

The Commission reviewed the Calls & Activities Report.

Old Business

- Mission Statement – tabled
- Old Engine 2 – No action to date.

New Business

- Fire Hydrants – Commissioner Mahoney stated that he had reviewed the proposed ordinance regarding snow removal from fire hydrants from a legal standpoint and did not feel there was any problem with it. Chief Flynn will add information on fines and bring the ordinance back to the next meeting for a vote.
- Mission Statement – the Commissioners reviewed proposed Mission Statements. Bland moved, Mahoney seconded to adopted the following:
The mission of the Suffield Fire Commission is to assist the Fire Department in ensuring that the citizens of the Town has dependable and efficient fire protection. The Commission oversees the administration of Department policies and finances. We seek to recruit and retain firefighters who display the highest degree of skill, courage, and integrity. We encourage Department programs that enhance the quality of life in our community.

The motion passed with Commissioner Christian voting against. Commissioner Christian declined to comment.

Vehicles, Facilities and Equipment

- Yearly preventative maintenance on apparatus has begun.
- Bushes behind Station 2 are being removed.
- Station 3 driveway has been repaired.
- Bid for a generator has been put out.

Personnel

New applicant for firefighter 2, Gary Rumpf, was unable to be at the meeting. Chief Flynn reports his background check is underway.

Fire Marshal Report

Chief Flynn reported that a few issues were discovered with the set for the high school play. All scenery had to be painted with fire retardant paint and emergency exits had to be cleared.

Executive Session

A personnel issue was discussed.

Adjournment

Gemme moved, Mahoney seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with Christian abstaining.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Bland
Secretary